



Los Angeles County Regional Park And Open Space District

Administrative Offices: 510 S. Vermont Avenue Los Angeles, CA 90020-1975. (213) 738-2981. <http://openspacedistrict.lacounty.info>

May 13, 2014

The Honorable Board of Directors
County of Los Angeles
Regional Park and Open Space District
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Directors:

**ALLOCATE SPECIFIED EXCESS FUNDS AVAILABLE TO THE FIRST SUPERVISORIAL
DISTRICT TO THE MOUNTAINS RECREATION AND CONSERVATION AUTHORITY AND
AUTHORIZE AWARD AND
ADMINISTRATION OF A GRANT TO THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES
FOR THE ALPINE RECREATION CENTER EXPANSION PROJECT
(FIRST DISTRICT)
(3 VOTES)**

SUBJECT

Approval of the recommended actions will allocate \$950,000 in Specified Excess Funds, available to the First Supervisorial District pursuant to the Los Angeles County Safe Neighborhood Parks Proposition of 1996, for a grant to the City of Los Angeles for the Alpine Recreation Center Expansion Project.

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE BOARD:

1. Find the proposed Alpine Recreation Center Expansion Project is categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act because the Project involves new construction of small structures and new landscaping, and for the reasons stated herein and the reasons reflected in the record of the Project.
2. Allocate \$950,000 of Specified Excess Funds, available to the First Supervisorial District, to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority, for a grant to the City of Los Angeles for its Alpine Recreation Center Expansion Project.
3. Authorize the Director of the Department of Parks and Recreation, in his capacity as the Director

of the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District, to award a \$950,000 grant to the City of Los Angeles for the Alpine Recreation Center Expansion Project, after the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority assigns the right to apply to the City of Los Angeles and when applicable conditions have been met; and to administer the grant as of the date of this action and pursuant to guidelines in the Procedural Guide for Specified, Per Parcel, and Excess Funds Projects; otherwise, funds shall remain in the Excess Funds account.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

Approval of the recommended actions will allocate \$950,000 in Specified Excess Funds, available to the First Supervisorial District pursuant to the Los Angeles County Safe Neighborhood Parks Proposition of 1996 (1996 Proposition), to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA), for a grant to the City of Los Angeles (City) for the proposed Alpine Recreation Center Expansion Project (Project).

The proposed Project consists of the development of a park next to the existing Chinatown Library. The park amenities will include benches, street trees, park lighting, a raised platform, tables, chairs, an elevated ramp, stairs, a view terrace, retaining walls, restrooms, a drinking fountain, a café concession, fitness equipment, play structures, cultural artwork, and landscaping.

The overall Project cost is estimated at \$8,249,705. The recommended \$950,000 in Specified Excess Funds will be supplemented by \$4,999,705 from State Park Proposition 84, \$1,500,000 from the City's Proposition K, and \$800,000 from the Capital Improvement Expenditure Program funds.

It is also recommended that the Director of the Department of Parks and Recreation (Director), in his capacity as Director of the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District, be authorized to award the grant after the MRCA assigns the right to apply to the City and when applicable conditions have been met, such as grantee qualifications, consistency between the projects and requirements of the 1996 Proposition, and grantee agreement with California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requirements for the Project; and to administer the grant pursuant to the Procedural Guide for Specified, Per Parcel, and Excess Funds Projects previously approved by the Board.

To be eligible to utilize Excess Funds, a grantee must have expended or committed to expend all of the funds allocated to that grantee in the Safe Neighborhood Parks Propositions of 1992 and 1996 (1992 and 1996 Propositions A). Therefore, the City will not be able to receive reimbursement from the proposed Project grant until all unspent 1992 and 1996 Proposition A funds allocated to the City are committed to expend through an executed Grant Project Agreement. Reallocation of the City's remaining 1992 and 1996 Proposition A funds will be recommended to the Board in a future agenda.

Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals

The recommended actions will further the Board-approved County Strategic Plan Goal of Operational Effectiveness (Goal 1) by enhancing health-promoting recreational opportunities in the First Supervisorial District.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

Sufficient appropriation for the Excess Funds grant in the amount of \$950,000 is budgeted in the First Supervisorial District's portion of the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space

District (RPOSD) Excess Funds Project Fund, HD6.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

The 1996 Proposition requires that agencies to which funds were allocated under the Safe Neighborhood Parks Propositions of 1992 and 1996 encumber all such funds prior to receiving grants of Excess Funds. MRCA currently meets this requirement, and the City will meet this requirement after reallocation/commitment.

The 1996 Proposition provides a method for determining, each fiscal year, the amount of funds available in the following fiscal year to fund capital improvement projects in addition to the amounts specifically identified for projects in the Safe Neighborhood Parks Propositions of 1992 and 1996. The recommended grant will be funded from the Excess Funds available to the First Supervisorial District for specified projects.

The Board may establish additional conditions on grants of Excess Funds. The Director will be authorized to award grants when all applicable conditions have been met. Any funds allocated by the Board, but not encumbered by award of a grant contract in the same fiscal year, shall be available for allocation by the Board in the following fiscal year.

On June 2, 2009, the Board approved the Procedural Guide to govern the administration of RPOSD grants. The Procedural Guide will appropriately govern the administration of the recommended grant as well.

ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION

All projects funded by RPOSD are required to comply with CEQA as a condition of the grant. The lead agency is responsible for preparing the appropriate environmental documentation for the project. The City of Los Angeles is the lead agency for the proposed Project.

The proposed Project is categorically exempt from CEQA. The Project, which consists of new construction and installation of small structures including benches, park lighting, a raised platform, tables, chairs, an elevated ramp, stairs, a view terrace, retaining walls, restrooms, a drinking fountain, a café concession, fitness equipment, play structures, and cultural artwork, and new landscaping, is within certain classes of projects that have been determined not to have a significant effect on the environment in that it meets the criteria set forth in Sections 15303(e) and 15304(b) of the State CEQA Guidelines, and Classes 3(b) and 4(c) of the County's Environmental Document Reporting Procedures and Guidelines, Appendix G, because the Project involves new construction of accessory structures and new landscaping.

The proposed Project will not involve the removal of healthy, mature, or scenic trees. Additionally, the proposed Project is not in a sensitive environment, and there are no cumulative impacts, unusual circumstances, or other limiting factors that would make the exemption inapplicable based on the proposed Project records.

CONTRACTING PROCESS

A Grant Project Agreement will be entered into and administered under authority delegated to the Director and pursuant to the Procedural Guide approved by the Board in 2009 only if all applicable

conditions of the grant have been met. The Project Agreement will be approved as to form by County Counsel.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)

The recommended actions will have no impact on any other projects funded by RPOSD, but are required for the enhancement of safe and accessible recreational opportunities in the First Supervisorial District.

CONCLUSION

Please instruct the Executive Officer-Clerk of the Board to return one adopted copy of this letter to the Chief Executive Office, Facilities and Asset Management Division, and one adopted copy to the Department of Parks and Recreation.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Russ Guiney", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

RUSS GUINEY

Director

RG:JB:WRO:tb

c: Executive Office, Board of Supervisors
County Counsel
Chief Executive Office